

SB 818 -- AVIATION TRUST FUND

SPONSOR: Kehoe (Davis)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill expands the list of airport planning purposes that may use moneys from the Aviation Trust Fund to include airport business plans and strategic plans.

Currently, if at least \$6 million is deposited into the fund in the previous calendar year, up to \$2 million may be expended annually for the study or promotion of expanded domestic or international scheduled commercial service, the study or promotion of intrastate scheduled commercial service, or to assist airport sponsors participating in a federally funded air service program supporting intrastate scheduled commercial service. The bill changes that provision to specify that if at least \$4.5 million is deposited into the fund in the previous calendar year, no more than \$2 million may be spent for the study or promotion of expanded domestic or international scheduled commercial service, the study or promotion of intrastate scheduled commercial service, the promotion of aviation in the state, or to assist airport sponsors participating in a federally funded air service program supporting intrastate scheduled commercial service in any calendar year and the State Highways and Transportation Commission must expend at least \$4 million of the annual deposit into the fund for other purposes.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that lowering the threshold will allow smaller airports to use moneys in the Aviation Trust Fund. The funds go to commercial airports to maintain air service throughout the state. Expanding the permissible airport planning projects will allow financing for feasibility and economic development studies.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Kehoe; Tony Monetti, University of Central Missouri; Steve Stoucam, Joplin Airport and State Aviation Commission; and Amy Ludwig, Department of Transportation.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.